STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

DEWAN OF MYSORE

Bangalore,

27th July 1925.

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My dear Mr. Mirza,

I write to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 25th instant regarding my visit to Dodballapur during my ensuing tour and the information that people there propose to present me an Address and a Casket. I write at once to say that the information, so far as I am aware, is not correct; for, definite instructions have been issued to the Deputy Commissioners some weeks ago that the representations of local bodies and Municipal Councils at the Taluk Headquarters to be visited by me should be informal and that I would meet them and discuss with them their local wants. No permission has been sought or given in regard to the presentation of formal Addresses or Caskets. In regard to the concluding portion of your letter, it may interest His Highness to know that I have declined all formal functions either of a social or of an official character. My time will be fully occupied from morning till evening in inspections; and the principle that is sought to be impressed on my mind is one which I could take the credit of, having followed during the whole of my 30 years' official career, and it is a matter for regret that at this late stage it should be considered necessary to make any reference to it in a communication to the Dewan.

As regards the statement that it has not been the custom for the Mysore Dewans to receive Addresses and Caskets in the course of their official tours, I regret that this was not specifically mentioned to me on any previous occasion. Further, I believe that it is a fact that some of my predecessors, for instance Sir Kantaraj Urs, did receive Caskets during their official tours in the districts, and I remember to have seen Caskets in the Drawing Room of Sir Visvesvaraya. During my tours in 1922-23 I did receive Addresses enclosed in Caskets, some of which were of no value and others of some value, and I think the fact was reported to His Highness in my tour notes. If any instructions were necessary, they should have been issued at that time to save any possible misunderstanding or a wrong procedure on my part. So far as I am aware, there has been

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no encouragement given by me in regard to this matter and if the people spontaneously make any presentations, it places me in an awkward position if I have to refuse them. While in Cochin as a British lent officer, under the rules, I was not permitted to take even an anna worth of present from anybody but His Highness the Raja specially wrote to the Madras Government to permit me to receive Caskets, trowels, and other presentations made in the course of my official tours as Diwan, as he considered that the prestige and the position of the Diwan did not justify any restriction in this respect. I am quite willing to abide by any ruling that His Highness wishes to lay down in this matter, but I would like you to explain clearly my position and disabuse His Highness' mind of any impression that may have been created by reports made to him by irresponsible persons regarding the nature of my tours and the reception that is accorded to me by the people in the places that I visit and inspect. I would also impress upon you the fact that the records of my tours can leave no doubt in the mind of any person as to the strenuous character of the work that is done by myself and everyone else connected therewith, and there is no reason for any suspicion that there is any desire for any pomp and ~~other~~ circumstances in connection with these tours, so far as I am concerned. I think I should also mention the fact that I have at all times specifically given instructions to the Deputy Commissioners as well as Amildars that no expenditure should be incurred in any places to be visited by me, and even in regard to functions such as Dinners, Tea Parties etc., I have invariably refused to accept them. On the last occasion when it was brought to my notice that one of the Amildars collected public subscriptions to make arrangements for receiving me in the taluk headquarters, I took severe notice of his conduct. No one is more alive to the necessity of seeing that the tours do not cause the people any inconvenience or subject them to any kind of levy by subordinate officials, and in this respect I have my own ways of checking it, which I have practised throughout my official career with success. It is however not always possible to stop or prevent any, spontaneous and genuine feeling amongst the people to receive me with any expression of good-will and affection, and in regard to

to this it is very difficult for me to take any attitude of open discouragement or discourtesy. So long as everything is kept within bounds and so long as subordinate officials as well as people interested in making a fuss and noise on behalf of local bodies are kept within proper restraint and check, I do not think anything further can be done in such cases.

In conclusion, I may be permitted to state, for His Highness' consideration, that when any information reaches His Highness either through you or any other person and before the communication based on that information is sent to the Dewan, I ~~think~~ submit that it is owing to his position to consider the desirability of at first making a reference to him as to the correctness of such information before any instructions are issued with reference to it. For, I cannot help feeling that the concluding portion of your letter indirectly amounts to a reflection on the Dewan and his conduct regarding the work that he chooses to undertake during the tours and as such, in view of the actual nature of the work done by me during my tours, which without any contradiction I can say that no previous Dewans have done, I personally am entitled to receive at His Highness' hands at least some consideration which, however, appears to me to be wanting in the communication that is now sent to me.

P.S. - The following extract from a letter received from one of the Dy.Commrs: will be relevant to the representations made above:-
"I have given instructions to the Amildars and Sub-Division officers that local officers should not arrange to raise subscns: from the people for functions. It is possible however that in some places non-officials will of their own accord try to make some arrangements and it may not be possible for offls: to control them" 47

Yours sincerely,

Amin-ul-mulk
Mirza M. Ismail, O.B.E., C.I.E.,
Private Secretary to His Highness
the Maharaja of Mysore.